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DOUBLE FLUKE SECURITY SEALING RING FOR WATT-HOUR METERS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates in general to the electric utility industry using watt-hour meter equipment to measure electric power consumption at residential, commercial and industrial premises so that the electric power supplier company entrusted to offer this service may, subsequently, issue a service charge receipt per amount of consumed electric power, and in particular to watt-hour meters that use security sealing rings, belts or straps.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The electric utility industry employs socket-type watt-hour meters to measure electric power consumption, commonly mounted on a wall of residential, commercial and industrial buildings. These type of watt-hour meters contain terminals which are connected to the electric line or to electric load conductors. The terminals are also connected to internal conductors within the socket, which extend to jaw contacts positioned to receive the blade terminals of a plug-on watt-hour meter to complete an electric circuit through the watt-hour meter between the line and load terminals and the conductors.

[0003] The socket-type watt-hour meter has a ring-type cover, which includes some annular mounting flanges projecting outwardly from an opening through which the blade terminals of the watt-hour meter extend. Both mounting flanges are maintained together by means of the meter ring and the base housing. Once assembled they are encircled by the security sealing ring, thereby sealing the single-phase or polyphase watt-hour meter to the base.

[0004] A common type of belt seal for socket-type watt-hour meter usually includes a lock that slips into a fluke, which extends outwardly at one end of the belt, and slipping the fluke through a slot formed in the other end of the belt or sealing ring.

[0005] Another common type of lock belt seal consists on a bolt passing through flukes, which are bent downwards, and are located at each end of the security belt.